



PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ADOPTS MOTION CONDEMNING ATTACK ON USS COLE

At an informal meeting this morning, the House Armed Services Committee unanimously adopted a motion expressing outrage and condemning the terrorist attack on the U.S. Navy ship USS Cole (DDG-67) in the Yemeni port of Aden. The committee members also offered their deepest sympathies for the families and friends of the victims of this attack.

Speaking on behalf of the committee, the Chairman of the committee, Floyd Spence, stated: "We are deeply disturbed by this unprovoked and cowardly attack on the USS Cole. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of all of the men and women serving aboard Cole, and in particular to the families of the deceased and injured. We must await further details before reaching definitive conclusions, but I strongly believe that the United States must respond firmly and without hesitation once responsibility for this act of terrorism is established."

The Ranking Member of the committee, Ike Skelton, added: "The attack against the USS Cole is the latest crime to be added to a growing list of deadly terrorist attacks against Americans. We deplore the loss of American lives and my deepest sympathies go to the families and friends of the victims of this cowardly attack. I want to be perfectly clear. The U.S. Government should seek retribution against those who are responsible for this attack against U.S. military personnel. We will also do all we can to ensure that our service members and citizens are protected in the future."

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